



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



SEP 29 2008

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CO922(KZ)

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Certified No.

DECISION

Aspen Valley Land Trust
320 Main St., Ste. 204
Carbondale, Colorado 81623

August 14, 2008 Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Protest Of Parcel COC73066 Is Dismissed

NOTE: Due to the high volume of protests, the official BLM protest response is posted on the BLM Colorado website, co.blm.gov. This paper copy is provided to you as a courtesy.

Your letter was received in our office on June 26, 2008, protesting the above named parcel offered in the August 14, 2008, Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale.

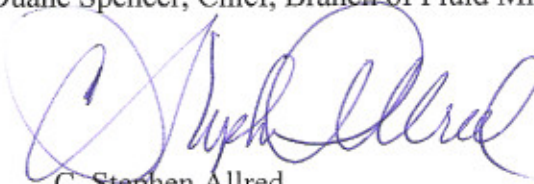
Protest Point: The Aspen Valley Land Trust holds a conservation easement on quarter quarter section [Sixth Prime Meridian, Township 5 South, Range 93 West, Section 17, SWSW]...and requests that BLM provide for a non-surface occupancy lease stipulation prohibiting all surface disturbances to the parcel, including a prohibition on all roads.

Response:

Lease parcel 4757 (Federal Lease COC73066) includes the following portions of Township 5 South, Range 93 West, section 17: N2NE, E2NW, S2SW, and NWSE, totaling 280 acres. Based on our land ownership data, only the SESW quarter-quarter (40-acre) portion of the lease area is on the Blackman Ranch, not the SWSW as stated in your letter. Multiple no surface occupancy restrictions were applied to the SWSW sec. 17, which is the quarter-quarter parcel cited in the caption of the AVLTL letter.

In applying environmental stipulations to the leases, BLM resource specialists analyzed the extent of resource impacts to determine if they would warrant attaching no surface occupancy (NSO), controlled surface use (CSU), and timing limitation (TL) restrictions. Of these, the only one that applies to the SESW sec. 17 is GS-TL-ROAN-13, which prohibits construction, drilling, and completion activities from December 1 through April 30 of each year.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Department of the Interior, I dismiss your protest. If you have any questions about this response, contact Duane Spencer, Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals at 303.239.3753.



C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Mineral Management

cc:

State Director, Colorado State Office
DSD, COSO Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals
Field Office Manager, Glenwood Springs